

the corridors for migration in and out of larger habitat zones. While connecting corridors are not a substitute for large reserves with many acres of interior space, they enhance survival and recolonization of animal and plant species within the overall region.

These concepts are reflected in the organization of this report around a network structure of core refuge areas and linking movement corridors^{*****}. Four of these corridors were identified originally by Rob Sutter in 1987:

1. THE NEW HOPE CREEK CORRIDOR, which links the important wildlife areas around Jordan Lake with the Durham Division of Duke Forest, as well as several key natural areas in Orange County.
2. THE ENO RIVER CORRIDOR, which similarly links the Falls Lake Gamelands with the Eno River State Park and other large natural areas located upstream along the Eno in Orange County.
3. THE FLAT RIVER CORRIDOR, which ties into the Eno Corridor and Falls Lake Gamelands at its lower end and to the Hill Forest upstream.
4. THE LITTLE RIVER CORRIDOR, which links the Eno River Corridor and its refuges to the Little River Reservoir lands and other undeveloped blocks of habitat upstream in Orange County.

Four more corridors were added by Steve Hall (NHP) in 1995:

1. THE MUD CREEK CORRIDOR, which links the New Hope Corridor to the Durham Division of Duke Forest.
2. THE JORDAN LAKE CORRIDOR, which links the New Hope Corridor with the rest of the Jordan Lake Gamelands. The Morgan Creek Corridor, which is here considered a tributary corridor, links these sites with Mason Farm and other natural areas located in Orange County; Northeast Creek Corridor links the gamelands in Durham County to the gamelands and a major inventory site in Chatham County.
3. THE NEUSE RIVER/FALLS LAKE CORRIDOR, which links the Eno and Flat River Corridors with the rest of the gamelands and recreational areas surrounding Falls Lake (including Lick Creek and several other natural areas important in their own right), as well as with wildlife areas that exist further downstream along the Neuse River.
4. THE NEUSE/TAR RIVER CORRIDOR, which provides one of the few remaining undeveloped overland links between these two major river basins.

***** A corridor is defined here only where it serves as a connection between two refuge areas — narrow strips of riparian vegetation are excluded if they do not lead both to and from areas that are capable of supporting viable natural communities (these sites may still have some value for small and relatively sedentary species, such as salamanders or land snails).